

THE

שקל

SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

Palestine Currency Board 5 Pound Notes

Encyclopedia Judaica: The Herodian Era

A Deceptive Bad Cochba Coin Exposed

Medals of the Holy Land

Transportation Tokens

A Bibliography for Jewish Numismatists

Announcing the AINA Sixth Israel Study Tour

Jerusalem Diary

Club News

A Farewell to Rafael Aldor

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THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again a series of events which indicate the dynamic growth of AINA as a numismatic force and cultural influence have taken place since our last report to you.

For example, there was a farewell dinner to my good friend, and a fine

friend to all AINA members, Rafael Aldor and his wife, Leah, who have concluded a three-year stay in the U. S. and are now again in Jerusalem. What made this event especially heartwarming for all concerned was the large turn-out by AINA club members, officers and family members. A lovely private room was engaged for what was to be a small dinner. But after just a few phone calls, the people who called and wrote: "Include me!" was so great that an intimate gathering became a banquet with nearly a hundred in attendance. Representa-

(Continued on Page 32)

GEORGE GILBERT, *Editor*

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by Jack H. Fisher

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PALESTINE CURRENCY BOARD

5 POUND NOTES

Collectors, dealers and researchers have written since my articles on the Palestine Currency Board 100 pounds notes, 50 pounds notes and the 10 pounds notes (*Editor: See THE SHEKEL, Issues No. 14, 15 and 20*) requesting information pertaining to research over the past 10 year period. Information was difficult to obtain pertaining to the 5 pounds notes since as with the 10, 50 and 100 pounds notes, information received from government sources was to the effect that records were not preserved. Dates of issue, quantity issued and notes that were cancelled and destroyed were not recorded.

The history of the 5 pounds notes commences with the year 1924. A study made by a committee appointed by the High Commissioner of Palestine submitted a report which proposed the appointment of a Currency Board. It would supervise a Palestine currency based on the pound sterling with sterling securities held in London to secure all currency placed in circulation.

The committee suggested a recommended counting unit of small value to the pound sterling to retain the value of a decimal system. The Palestine Currency Board was constituted. The members and secretary were appointed by a minute of the secretary of State for the Colonies, dated June 15, 1926, and the unit adopted was the Palestine pound to be equal in value to the British pound sterling, plus being divided into 1,000 mils.

The determination of the Board was that the notes to be issued be in the denominations of 500 mils, one pound, five pounds, 10 pounds, 50 pounds and 100 pounds. The 5 pounds note was determined to have as pictorial representations on the *obverse* that of the *Crusader Tower at Ramleh* and the *reverse*, a representation of the *Citadel in Jerusalem*. It was also determined the size of the note be 191-by-102 millimeters with *obverse* colors *green, purple, red* and *black* and *reverse* colors of *green* and *red*.

Official records of the issue dates of 5 pounds notes have been pursued for many years without success. It is likely such records are just not available. The list of 5 pounds notes compiled to date represent all dates located and verified by the author.

The listing follows:

September 1, 1927
September 30, 1929
April 20, 1939
January 1, 1944

Questions submitted by individuals interested in 5 pounds notes range from the number of notes in circulation at specific times during the Mandate to the number of notes still outstanding and the value of such notes in various grades as collector items. The first question consists of the notes in circulation from the first year of issue (1927) to the termination of the board in 1952 plus official figures as to outstanding notes as of 1966.



The amount of 5 pounds notes in circulation for each year from 1927 through 1952 from official records is set forth as follows in Palestine pounds:

March 31, 1928	410,000 pounds
March 31, 1929	402,935 pounds
March 31, 1930	562,920 pounds
March 31, 1931	648,770 pounds
March 31, 1932	643,815 pounds
March 31, 1933	751,825 pounds
March 31, 1934	1,226,075 pounds
March 31, 1935	1,611,375 pounds
March 31, 1936	1,974,355 pounds
March 31, 1937	1,701,355 pounds
March 31, 1938	1,484,355 pounds
March 31, 1939	1,949,245 pounds
March 31, 1940	2,581,535 pounds
March 31, 1941	3,014,890 pounds
March 31, 1942	3,766,665 pounds
March 31, 1943	7,496,760 pounds
March 31, 1944	11,564,275 pounds
March 31, 1945	15,534,205 pounds
March 31, 1946	16,762,940 pounds
March 31, 1947	17,127,660 pounds
March 31, 1948	19,546,150 pounds
March 31, 1949	10,156,100 pounds
March 31, 1950	4,957,170 pounds
March 31, 1951	1,531,295 pounds
March 31, 1952	126,470 pounds

It is interesting to note the amount of 5 pounds notes in circulation in 1952 was approximately one-third of the small amount in circulation in the 1928 fiscal year of the Palestine Currency Board. Official government sources stated that the theoretical amount of 5 pounds notes outstanding as of March 16, 1966 was 56,825 (a theoretical 11,365 5 pounds notes.)

This official source stated:

"It must be emphasized that the figures can have little practical significance by now, as a great deal of the notes shown as theoretically outstanding must have been destroyed from one cause or another."

It is also to be noted that the Palestine Currency Board notes continued to be redeemed from 1966 up to and including 1971. The author redeemed a few ragged Palestine Currency Board notes to learn the redemption procedure during this period. No records were kept as to notes redeemed, cancelled and destroyed by denomination so that such information is not available.

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FROM THE ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA

COINAGE OF THE HERODIAN DYNASTY

(37 B.C.E. to 95 C.E.)



Figure 79. Hoard of ancient coins with the jar in which they were found. Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums, Jerusalem.

With the permission of the Editors and Publishers of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, *The Shekel* is privileged to present complete reprints of all articles in the encyclopedia of special interest to the numismatic world. For further information about the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, write to 104 East 40 Street, New York 10016.

THE COINAGE OF THE HERODIAN DYNASTY (37 B.C.E. c. 95 C.E.). The coins of Herod the Great (37 B.C.E.), all of bronze as those of his successors, can be divided into two groups: those which are dated and those which are not. The dated coins all bear the same date, the year three. As Herod no doubt reckoned his reign from his appointment as king of Judea by the Romans in 40 B.C.E. and not from his actual accession three years later, the "year three" is equal to 37 B.C.E. All legends on his coins are in Greek and no Hebrew legends appear on the coins of the Herodian dynasty. The emblems on his coins are the tripod, thymiaterion, caduceus, pomegranate, shield, helmet, aphlaston, palm branch, anchor, double and single cornucopia, eagle, and galley. It may be concluded from this selection of symbols that Herod the Great did not wish to offend the religious feelings of his subjects. The denominations of his coins were the chalcous and hemi-chalcous (rare), the trilepton, and frequently the dilepton or perutah.

The coins of Herod Archelaus (4 B.C. 6 C.E.) are undated and bear mainly maritime emblems, such as the galley, prow, and anchor. Other types are the double cornucopia, the helmet, bunch of grapes, and wreath surrounding the legend. His main denomination was the perutah, but he also issued a trilepton. Herod Antipas (tetrarch of Galilee 4 B.C.E.-c. 39 C.E.) began to issue coins only after he founded and settled his new capital Tiberias. All his coins are dated. The earliest date is



Figure 18. Obverse: Single cornucopia encircled by Hebrew inscription, *Mattityah kohen gadol hever ha-[yehudim]*. Reverse: Greek inscription encircled by wreath, "King Antigonus." Bronze, 18 mm., 7.5 grams.

Figure 19. Obverse: Double cornucopia. Hebrew inscription, *Mattityah [ha-kohen ha-gadol ve-hever ha-yehudim]*. Reverse: Wreath surrounded by Greek inscription, "King Antigonus." Bronze, 24 mm., 14.80 grams.

Figure 20. Obverse: Hebrew inscription *Mattityah* encircled by wreath. Reverse: Double cornucopia, with pomegranate between horns. Bronze, 14 mm., 1.50 grams.

HERODIAN DYNASTY,

40 [37] B.C.E.-95 C.E.

HEROD THE GREAT, 40[37]-4 B.C.E.



Figure 21. Obverse: *Aphlaston* (bow of a ship) with Greek inscription, "King Herod." Reverse: Palm branch with enigmatic object on either side. Bronze perutah, 17 mm., 2.5 grams.

Figure 22. Obverse: Greek inscription around crested helmet, "King Herod." Date

T (year three of Herod's reign=37 B.C.E.). Reverse: Shield with decorated rim. Bronze, 20 mm., 5.10 gr.



Figure 23. Obverse: Winged caduceus with Greek inscription, "King Herod." Date T (year three of Herod's reign=37 B.C.E.). Reverse: Pomegranate with branch. Bronze, 18 mm., 3.00 grams.

Figure 24. Obverse: Cross within diadem open below, encircling Greek inscription, "King Herod." Reverse: Tripod with bowl on it, palm branch on either side. Bronze, 17 mm., 2.3 grams.

Figure 25. Obverse: Anchor with encircling Greek inscription, "King Herod." Reverse: Double cornucopia, with caduceus between horns. Bronze, 15 mm., 1.5 grams.

Figure 26. Obverse: Anchor encircling Greek inscription, "King Herod." Reverse: War-galley, with oars, *aphlaston*, and battering ram. Bronze, 13 mm., 0.80 grams.

HEROD ARCHELAUS, 4 B.C.E.-6 C.E.



Figure 27. Obverse: Double cornucopia with parallel horns, facing right. Reverse:

from the 24th year of his reign (19/20 C.E.). On his coins he is called Herod, but they can easily be distinguished as they bear his title "tetrarch." The emblems on his coins are all of flora such as the reed, the palm branch, a bunch of dates, and a palm tree. Though the emblems are the same on all denominations, three denominations can be distinguished. The obverses show a wreath that surrounds the legend "Tiberias"; only the series of the last year refers to Gaius Caligula. As the territory of the tetrarch Herod Philip I (4 B.C.E.-34 C.E.) was predominantly non-Jewish, he allowed himself to strike coins with a representation of the ruling Roman emperor and the pagan temple erected by his father in his capital Panias. His coins are dated from the year 5 to the year 37 of his reign, though not all dates occur. Three denominations can be observed, though their units cannot be distinguished.

The most common coin struck by King Herod Agrippa I (37-44 C.E.), grandson of Herod the Great, was a perutah of the year 6 of his reign (42/3 C.E.), depicting an umbrella-shaped royal canopy and three ears of barley. This coin was obviously struck for Judea. For the other districts of his kingdom he issued coins that would have offended Jewish religious feelings as they carried his own portrait or that of the Roman emperor and even gods or human beings in the Greco-Roman style of the period. On one very rare coin two clasped hands are shown; the legend seems to refer to an alliance between the Jewish people and the Roman senate. All Agrippa's coins are dated, and in his non-Jewish series two different groups of two denominations each can be discerned belonging to the reigns of Caligula and Claudius respectively. Herod of Chalcis (41-48 C.E.), brother of Agrippa I, regularly put his portrait on his coins, calling himself "friend of the emperor." Some of his extremely rare coins bear the date "year 3," others are undated; a system of three denominations can be observed in this coinage too.

War galley to left, with oars, *aphlaston*, and battering ram. Bronze, 19 mm., 3.10 grams. Figure 28. Obverse: Prow of galley with Greek inscription, $\text{HP}\Omega$. Reverse: Greek inscription surrounded by wreath. Bronze, 15 mm., 1.50 grams.



Figure 29. Obverse: Anchor with long arms, with Greek inscription. Reverse: Inscription encircled by wreath. Bronze, 15 mm., 1.10 grams.

Figure 30. Obverse: Cluster of grapes with branch and leaf, with Greek inscription above, "Herod." Reverse: Crested helmet; below left, small caduceus. Greek inscription below, "the ethnarch." Bronze, 17 mm., 1.95 grams.



Figure 31. Obverse: Palm tree, with two clusters of dates. Date, MT (year 43 of the reign of Herod Antipas=39 C.E.), encircled by Greek inscription, "Herod the tetrarch." Reverse: Greek inscription encircled by wreath, *Gaio Kaisar[i] Germaniko*. Bronze, 22 mm., 11.95 grams.

Figure 32. Obverse: Palm branch. Date MT (year 43 of reign of Herod Antipas= 39

C.E.). Reverse and inscriptions as in Fig. 31. Bronze, 18 mm., 6.6 grams.



Figure 33. Obverse: Head of Tiberius with Greek inscription, *Tiberios Sebastos Kaisar*. Reverse: Facade of tetrastyle (four-columned) temple, with date A (year 30 of Herod Philip's reign=26/27 C.E.) and Greek inscription *Philipou Tetrarchou*. Bronze, 19 mm., 6.50 grams.



Figure 34. Obverse: Canopy encircled by Greek inscription, "King Agrippa." Reverse: Three ears of barley issuing from two leaves. Date S (year six of Agrippa's reign=42/43 C.E.). Bronze, 18 mm., 2.40 grams.

Figure 35. Obverse: Head of Claudius to right encircled by Greek inscription, *Tiberios Sebastos Kaisar*. Reverse: Facade of distyle (two-columned) temple, flanking two figures holding circular objects above a figure bowing to left. In center of pediment, date Z (year seven). Inscription, "Agrippas, philokaiser, great king." Bronze, 26 mm., 16.20 grams.



Figure 36. Obverse: Head of Nero to right, encircled by Greek inscription, *Neron Kaisar Sebastos*. Reverse: Five-line inscription enclosed by circle and wreath. Bronze, 35 mm., 11.30 grams.

From the time of the son of Herod of Chalcis, Aristobulus of Chalcis (57-92 C.E.), only a few rare specimens have been preserved. They bear his portrait and sometimes also that of his wife Salome. His coins can be identified by their legends which mention him and his wife Salome as king and queen.

Because of his long reign, the series of coins assigned to Herod Agrippa II (c. 50-93 C.E.) is the largest and most varied among the coin series of the Herodians. Two types bear his likeness, and others issued in the year 5 of Agrippa with name of Nero have a legend surrounded by a wreath. There are two coins which have a double date (the years 6 and 11) and which belong to the two different eras used on his coins. These double dated coins bear "inoffensive" symbols such as double cornucopias and a hand grasping various fruits. All his coins, like those of his father Agrippa I, are of bronze and dated, making it easy to arrange them in chronological order. There are, however, some difficulties. The first is the parallel issue of coins in the name of Vespasian and in the name of his sons Titus and Domitian. It has been accepted that all his Greek coins belong to an era starting in the year 50 C.E. The Latin series issued in the name of Domitian belongs to an era starting in 61 C.E. The bulk of his coins were struck during the reign of the Flavian emperors, with Tyche, the goddess of destiny, and the goddess of victory as emblems. A unique specimen, with the victory inscription on a shield hanging on a palm-tree, refers to the Roman victory in the Jewish War (66-70 C.E.). Agrippa thus put himself into the Roman camp against his own people. His coinage, as described above, shows the most far-reaching deviation from Jewish tradition among the ancient coinage issued by Jewish rulers.

To be continued

A LETTER WRITTEN AT 35,000 FEET

Morris Bram shares a Letter from a Friend with the Membership of AINA

GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL

Coins and Medals Department

Above the Atlantic Ocean

August 20th, U. S. Time

August 21st, European Time

Dear Morris,

As even non-numismatists know, there are two sides to a coin. And as it is with most Israelis who return home after a tour of duty abroad, I am now looking back at my two-year term as *North American Director of the IGCAM* from both sides of the coin. On the obverse, there is pride and satisfaction at having had the opportunity of contributing in my own way to the advancement of Israel numismatics in the U. S., and having had a share in this highly successful venture. On the reverse, there is a certain amount of regret for having to leave office as a result of family considerations before being able to accomplish all I had intended to do. On a more personal level, there are also mixed feelings. On one hand, joy for returning home to Jerusalem, and on the other hand, sorrow for leaving behind so many close friends acquired throughout these years.

But I don't have to tell *you* that an obverse and a reverse still don't make the entire coin. You also have a rim. On the rim of any coin, circling both the obverse and the reverse, is AINA, with whom I shared both my good and bad moments, my accomplishments and my setbacks. I have a special spot for AINA in my heart, let alone its President. At this time in which I am "retiring" from my numismatic activities, I would like to convey to you, as President, to your fellow Directors and to your entire membership my best wishes for a continued growth of your important organization, which is the spearhead of Israel numismatics in the U. S.

In spite of the "retirement" I was referring to, I have no intentions of discontinuing my close personal association with AINA, and I hope you have no such intentions either on your part. Please keep me posted on AINA's performance, and don't forget to keep me on *The Shekel* mailing list. I am also looking forward to next year's AINA Study Tour in Jerusalem.

Best wishes to all of you.

Shaiom,

Rafi
(Rafael Aldor)

A DECEPTIVE "BAR COCHBA COIN" EXPOSED

by Herb Kreindler and Mel Wacks NLG

We write of the discovery of a counterfeit coin with mixed conditions—sad that the coin fraternity should be exposed to the piece, but pleased that once the distinctive characteristics of the forgery are detected and disseminated to as wide an audience as possible, no one need be fooled by this deceptive "ancient coin".

The piece in question is a small bronze with the name of "Eleazar the Priest", of the type struck during the *Second Jewish Revolt*, 132-135 A.D., referred to in the standard references as *Reifenberg #189*, *Meshorer #173*. The genuine coin is rare and not often offered for sale.

The questionable piece first came to the attention of American collectors about three years ago when specimens were offered for sale in Canada at \$11.00 each. Here was the *first danger signal*—genuine specimens of this rare coin generally sell for \$150-350, depending on condition.

A half dozens specimens were ordered at \$11.00; all were received by one of the co-authors. A friend received a similar number. A dozen specimens of a great rarity at one time—*danger signal number two*. The coins all had magnificent patinas—green, brown and red in various combinations. There were similarities in the design, but the planchets were of varying thickness and centering and strike varied. Since the coins of the *Second Revolt* were all overstruck over Roman, Greek and other coins, differences in the planchets and strikes tended to confirm their genuineness.

This newly found "hoard" was then taken to the *American Numismatic Society*. While their policy is not to pass on the authenticity of coins, it was indicated that they had seen a similar group brought in by a Canadian a short time before. They advised



The staff of the ICGAM poses with Rafel and Leah Aldor (center) for a farewell photo. This is the staff which Mr. Aldor directed and which con-

Genuine (left); Forgery (right)

that a simple test would be: *wash the coin with soap and water*. This was done to one of the specimens and the magnificent mottled green and red patina *disappeared*. (Patina is the result of oxidation of the metal and is removed only through abrasion.)

Once the "patina" was removed, the true surface of the coin could be seen. It was very smooth; certainly there was no evidence of any overstriking—*danger signal number three*.

Some time later, when the other co-author obtained a piece (all previous lots having been returned) he removed its patina with vaseline at which point *another* characteristic was noticed. Some of the devices were rusty and hollow on examination. Indications of incomplete die filling on casting were probable; the rust and the "patina" were most likely due to soaking the coin in salt water. This coin was examined by Dr. Leo Miltenberg, an authority on coins of the *Second Revolt*, at the recent LEU auction. He also expressed the opinion that it was not genuine.

2 bunches of fruit



RIM: SLIGHTEST TRACE OF
BEADING, OTHERWISE SOLID.
RIM LIKE AND BROKEN ONLY
WHERE CASTING NOT FULL

GRAPES: NOT STRONGLY STRUCK UP
ON ALL SPECIMENS
UPPER BUNCHES
MAY NOT FILL ON CASTING

INSCRIPTION (NOT WELL STRUCK ON
ALL PIECES)

"FIRST YEAR OF THE REDEMPTION
OF ISRAEL"

שנת אחרת לגאלה ישראל [אז]

Indistinct/rim



We now have several pieces in our possession, as well as pictures of one of the earlier lots. The devices are similar, all coins apparently coming from the same die. Only widths of the devices vary which is due to the skill in casting. The photographs and the line drawing help to clarify the primary differences between the suspect pieces and the genuine coin.

The characteristics of the counterfeit are:

Obverse: Bunch of grapes with leaf; around, beginning on left inscription: "First Year of the Redemption of Israel" (in ancient Hebraic script)
Characteristic: The border surrounding the main devices is obscure. (Note: The genuine coin has a beaded border).

Reverse: Palm tree with two bunches of fruit; across field inscription "Eleazar the Priest".

Characteristic: The border surrounding the main devices is a solid circle, showing the slightest indication of beading. (Note: The genuine coin has a beaded border, with most beads separated from the adjacent beads).

Planchet: Once the patina has been removed, the surface has a smooth appearance. The method of manufacture is possibly an above-average pressure casting. Metal used is of the period and most likely obtained by

Cont on page 14

ALDOR DEPARTS FOLLOWING AINA BANQUET-PARTY



Rafael Aldor, retiring Director for North America of the ICGAM receives a watch as a permanent token of love and appreciation from AINA in a presentation by Morris Bram, president of AINA.

A banquet at the Sheraton Hoel in New York was attended by nearly 100 guests which included the presidents of seven nearby INS groups and the leading numismatists of the New York area.



The staff of the ICGAM poses with Rafel and Leah Aldor (center) for a farewell photo. This is the staff which Mr. Aldor directed and which continues the work of the Jerusalem-based Government corporation. From left to right: Moshe Itzhaky, Dalia Lebow, Rafael and Leah Aldor, Muriel Waserlauf, Morris Bram and Yemina Sylberman.



A typical table scene at the Aldor banquet: *Standing rear:* Rafael and Leah Aldor with Morris Bram. *Seated, left to right:* Mr. and Mrs. George Gilbert, Editor of *The Shekel*; Arnold Kagan, prominent numismatist and business executive; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Janis, Board Member, AINA; and Lena Bram, wife of Morris Bram.

MEDALS OF THE HOLY LAND

7TH MACCABIAH GAMES IN ISRAEL — 1965

This medal was issued in Israel to commemorate the *7th Maccabiah*

Metal: Brass

Edge: Plain

Diameter: 59mm

Obverse: Above in Hebrew, "1965"; on the left rim, in Hebrew, "THE SEVENTH MACCABIAH ISRAEL;" on the right panel, the emblem of the Games with a wreath on the outer rim; on the left panel, longitude and latitude lines.

Reverse: In the center, in English, "THE SEVENTH MACCABIAH ISRAEL;" below, the lighted torch with the date, "1965."



7TH MACCABIAH GAMES IN ISRAEL — 1965

This medal was issued in Israel to commemorate the *7th Maccabiah Games*.

Metal: Bronze — Silver

Edge: Plain — Plain—serially numbered

Diameter: 59mm — 35mm

Obverse: In the center, a participant leaping in mid-air; to his left, the emblem of the Games; around the right rim, the word "ISRAEL" in English and Hebrew and the date "1965."

Reverse: Across the medal the latitude and longitude lines; in the center a hand holding a lit torch; around the bottom rim, in English and Hebrew, "MACCABIAH."



8TH MACCABIAH GAMES IN ISRAEL — 1969

This medal was issued in Israel to commemorate the *8th Maccabiah Games*.

Metal: Silver-plated — Bronze

Edge: Plain — Plain

Diameter: 59mm — 45mm

Obverse: In English on the left and in Hebrew on the right, "VIII MACCABIAH ISRAEL 1969;" in the center the emblem of the games.

Reverse: On the bottom rim in English, "SEVENTY YEARS MACCABIAH," and above, the same in Hebrew; above the Hebrew, the emblem of the Games; wreaths flank the upper half of the medal with the longitude and latitude line running thru the field.



HAPOEL GAMES IN ISRAEL — 1971

This medal was struck in Israel to commemorate the *Haapel Games* in track and field in 1971.

Metal: Tombac — silver-plated

Edge: Plain — plain

Diameter: 59mm — 35mm

Obverse: On the left panel in English and Hebrew, "HAPOEL GAMES;" on the right panel, above, the emblem of the games; below in English, "ISRAEL" and the date "1971" in English and Hebrew.

Reverse: In the center, two runners; below, the numeral "50" and in Hebrew, "GENERAL HISTAD-RUT;" below, the numeral "45" and in Hebrew "HAPOEL ASSOCIATION."



NORTH AMERICAN DIRECTOR FOR ISRAEL COINS ENDS TOUR OF DUTY

Rafael Aldor, Consul of Israel in New York and North American Director of the IGCAM returned to Israel shortly after completing a two-year tour of duty in the United States in August.

Aldor, a journalist by profession, was appointed to his present position with the Government of Israel in August 1971. He returns to Jerusalem, and will be rejoining his newspaper, *Ma'ariv*, from which he was on leave.

BAR COCHBA

(Cont.)

using metal from large lots of worthless coins. (The coin was subjected to an ion bombardment test and matched coins of the Eleazar period with the same metal content.)

Size/Weight of pieces shown:

Canadian Eleazar #1 - 18mm, 7.04g

Canadian Eleazar #2 - 19mm, 5.68g (discovered 1973)

Genuine Eleazar - 18-19mm, 621g

Note: Size of pieces and weights are not a significant reason for rejection, and any such test is inconclusive.

- Notes: 1. Thanks to Mr. M. Zerder for piece number 1 and other documents made available to the writers and to Mr. I. Baum for piece number 2. These men are officers of the Israel Numismatic Society of Long Island and Montreal respectively.
2. The authors will act as a clearing house for information concerning these coins. Anyone wishing further information or opinions on coins they own should write to the authors care of *The Shekel*. Do not send coins for authentication with prior consent.
3. Photos by Dr. M. Rubin, drawing by H. Kreindler.

SYNAGOGUE COMMEMORATED

Touro Synagogue in Newport, R. I., the oldest Synagogue in North America and the symbol of religious liberty in America, was dedicated in 1763 and designated a *National Historic Site* in 1946. It was designed by Peter Harrison, dean of America's colonial architects. The Congregation was founded by Spanish-Portuguese Jews who came from Curacao in 1658.

In 1759 President George Washington wrote a letter to the "*Hebrew Congregation in Newport, R. I.*" in which he said, "*for happily the Government of the United States which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance . . .*" These words were not original with Washington, but were contained in the letter that Moses Seixus, president of Touro Synagogue, had written to him. They seemed to express so well the ideals that motivated Washington and his Government, that he incorporated them in his reply to Seixus.



In honor of the forthcoming Bicentennial Celebration of American Independence, the *Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue* has issued a medal, produced by the Franklin Mint, depicting *Touro Synagogue, National Historic Site*, on the obverse, and the immortal words of George Washington on the reverse. The medal is available in Proof .999 pure silver and in bronze. The cost of the silver medal is \$15.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling; bronze \$4.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling; the set of silver and bronze, \$20 postpaid. Orders may be sent to: *Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue*, Department M, 85 Touro Street, Newport, R. I. All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of Touro Synagogue.

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. I am confused with the dating on the Medals of Liberation. Can you clarify the striking dates and the edge devices?

Dr. T. Y., Chicago, Ill.

A. The Gold 27mm (Haffner M-A1) and the Silver 38mm (Haffner M-A2) are dated 1958 and were struck in 1958 but not as originally planned. In The Numismatist of April 1948, one month before the 10th anniversary of Israel, Leo Kadman announced commemorative medals of gold, silver, and bronze all to be struck on 40mm planchets. The medals, as struck, known as the First Issue, were a private minting struck in Canada and with the proper authorization, carried the inscription: ISRAEL GOVERNMENT APPROVED ISSUE on its edge. These two medals, gold and silver, were distributed by Joseph Iophet & Co. of Jerusalem.

The sale of these two medals served as additional impetus to motivate the Bank of Israel to induce the Prime Minister's office to create the agency now known as the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

A larger medal in copper (M-1) of 61mm was issued by the new official agency as the first of the second issue. This copper medal did not carry any edge device. When the 25,000 copper pieces of the medal were exhausted in 1961, this medal was reissued with the dies altered. Holes were drilled then replugged. These modifications caused the medals of this restriking to have what I first referred to as "balloons in the sky."

Because of the demand in 1961, silver medals of 35mm and 61mm (the same size as the 1958 regular and 1961 copper restrikes) were struck. The silver issues carried the emblem of the State and "STATE OF

ISRAEL" in both Hebrew and English. In addition "STERLING 935" in English and "KESEF" (Silver) in Hebrew appear on the edges of the silver pieces.

Very little is known about the silver restrike with the "balloons". In 1962 there appears the third issue with a similar, but changed design. This third design refers to "ISRAEL LIBERATED 1948" but does not have any reference to "TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S FREEDOM" as on the second series or to "TEN YEARS FREEDOM OF ISRAEL" on the First Issue. These 1962 issues (M.21, 21a b, & c) were struck in 59mm bronze, 19mm, 35mm, and 59mm silver. These medals, with the exception of the small silver piece which had a milled edge, had the emblem of the State, STATE OF ISRAEL in Hebrew and English and "KESEF" (Silver) in Hebrew on the two larger silver medals. The large silver medal is serially numbered up to 5000.

I imagine that most collectors have been associating these three issues with the tenth anniversary and have thought that all were issued in 1958. As an afterthought, I do not know why the copper restrikes (M-1c) should be as scarce as they are because to the best of my knowledge, they were reissued from defaced dies, on demand without limitation.

Q. Are the numbers backwards on the Ship Tokens shown in Haffner page 359, because Hebrew is read from right to left?

G. L., Columbia, S. C.

A. Utter nonsense. The photoengraver goofed and made a reversal.

OF CATALOGUES, EXHIBITS AND A SHORTAGE OF 1-AGORA COINS

by Dov Genachowski

As usual, let's start with a book - and an extraordinary book it is. Mayer Rosenberger came to Palestine in 1943, and almost at once, started a coin collection. He specialized in what we call "town coins", i. e. coins minted by or in various cities and towns in Palestine, mainly during the Roman period.

In many ways, this is probably the least explored part of Palestine Numismatics, which is a real pity, as these coins are of supreme importance not only numismatically, but from historical and archeological viewpoints as well. Now we have before us the first volume of the *Rosenberger Collection* catalogue, containing the coins of Aelia Capitolina (Jerusalem), Akko, Anthedon, Antipatris and Ascalon - 5 cities, for which 443 coins are described in great detail in 68 large-format pages.

The main criticism - probably the only one - is the deplorable quality of the pictures. Money for proper photography and reproduction was apparently the problem; it is to be hoped that future editions will do better. But even thus, this is a major work describing a major collection. It is in English, and costs IL. 40.

Another catalogue in the offing is that of the *Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp.* Most readers are familiar with the red-covered catalogue, now out-of-print and out-of-date. The new edition should appear this summer, in three editions: Hebrew, English and French.

* * *

Nobody has come up yet with a reasonable explanation for the shortage of 1 *Agora* coins. Bus companies

הבו אגורות!

בכל בית גמולות אגורות - חלק מן החיל לטובה. בבית סוף זה יש שימוש
הם יחיד בגבול. כדור לקנייתם. לכן מידת אגורות עם לחצית לטבען ושיקף אגורות
שמינית בעדן.

על כל 100 מסבקות של אגורה אחת שתביאו לבנק לאומי להפקיד
בחיובות, נותן שלכם חקבלו כענק של 10 אגורות. שיכנס
אף הוא לחשבון-הוא שלכם.

אם אינכם חסרים קדימון בחשבון, נותן גומיה חסרף ו חרובות להחזיק אגור.
הביאו את המסבקות למפקד הקרוב של בנק לאומי. המבצע - במסך חודש מאי בלבד.



בנק לאומי
לישורתל בע"מ

are no longer interested in these coins as all ticket prices were "rounded" at the time of the last fare increases. But something causes them to disappear from the scene, inflation and all. So much so that *Bank Leumi* in May, 1973 offered its young savers 110 *Agoroth* for every 10 coins of *One Agora* deposited into savings accounts. And this is despite a mintage of over 24-million in 1972, which brought the total circulation by the end of 1972 to 218.6 million coins. *Strange.*

* * *

The *Bank of Israel Annual Report* for 1972 was published in Jerusalem on May 30th. It is mainly economics,

but it also includes quite a lot of numismatic data, such as the mintage figures of all commemoratives, accrued circulation figures, and so on.

The following table gives the number (in units) of trade coins minted bearing the date 5732:

1 Agora	24,512,000
5 Agoroth	9,005,000
10 Agoroth	19,653,112
25 Agoroth	1,883,000
½ Pound	421,000
1 Pound	2,485,041

* * *

Query: Which are the *largest* and *smallest* coins minted in *Eretz-Israel*? The answer is in a special exhibit at the *Israel Museum*, in connection with the exhibition of the *Bank of Israel's Collection*. The largest, weighing no less than 84 grams was minted in



Akko under Ptolemy II Philadelphus (283-270 B.C.); on one side, the head of Zeus-Ammon, chief deity of the Ptolemaic pantheon; and eagles on the reverse. The smallest, weighing only 0.1 grams, is of silver (the largest is bronze), was minted in Gaza about 100 years earlier when bronze was a rare metal in coin mintage.

* * *

I wrote sometime ago concerning the growing need for something like the PNG in Israel. The need for a self-policing body of professional numismatists was recently illustrated when a new dealer started offering, via a rather extensive ad campaign, veritable "rarities" - 5, 25, 50 and 100

Prototh of 1949, all circ. with no state listed, at no less than IL. 25 for the four. The ads said a lot about coin values sky-rocketing, implied the same for this group, without saying so directly - when in *proof-like unc.* the four are worth, retail, perhaps IL. 10. Sadly, I am sure many people jumped on the "occasion".

* * *

Adding to all other headaches in connection with the *25th Anniversary Gold Set* was the problem of distribution: *how to get the valuable coins into the hands of the IGC Corp. subscribers?*

Regular mailing was not, for obvious reasons. Messenger service proved impossible: subscribers live, literally, from Metulla in the north to Sharm-el-Shaikh in the far south. Finally the Corporation borrowed from the *State Loan Administration* their system of distributing the *Absorption Loan Certificates*. Each subscriber gets a notification to present himself, with his identity card at the Post Office nearest his address. Following the verification of identity and signature on a receipt, he is handed the treasured package in person.

* * *

At the opening of the *Bank of Israel Exhibition* at the *Israel Museum*, the Bank's former Governor and present Chairman of its Advisory Council, Mr. David Horowitz, disclosed how the Bank acquired its great collection of *Shekel* and *Half Shekel* coins of the five years of the *Revolt*. When the Massada diggings were started, said Mr. Horowitz, he was approached by Professor Yadin for a contribution by the Bank to finance the expedition. By law, the central bank is precluded from making donations. Horowitz hit upon the idea of a deal, offering to buy, in advance, all coins to be discovered over and above those to be deposited in the various official collections. "*It was one of the most advantageous deals I made as Governor*", Mr. Horowitz concluded.

SMALL CHANGE TOKENS OF MISHMAR HAMIFRATZ, LTD. TRANSPORTATION CO.

by Sylvia Haffner

The *Mishmar Hamifratz, Ltd. Transportation Co.* existed from 1942 to 1950 and was located in Kiryat-Haim, Israel. In a recent discovery in their archives, small change tokens in specimen were located.

In 1942, the printer sent to the company three tokens in the denominations of *one, two and five mils* as specimens of the forthcoming issue. The tokens were placed into circulation for a very short time when the *one and five mil tokens* were recalled for they seemed to cause the drivers a great deal of trouble in making change. The *one and five mil tokens* were dropped from circulation after only a few weeks; only the *two mil token* was used until 1950.

SIZE: 40/40mm

- 1 Mil *Orange-black print, shield in orange*
- 2 Mils *Green-black print, shield in red-brown*

5 Mils *Yellow-black print, shield in red-brown*

OBVERSE: *In Hebrew above, "MISHMAR HAMIFRATZ LTD/COMPANY SAND OF THE SEA GROUP"; to the right of the numeral, in the center, the word "MIL" in Hebrew, to the left "MILS" in English; in the center, the shield of the company and in Hebrew, "MISHMAR HAMIFRATZ"; below in Hebrew, "TRAVEL TICKET FOR (DENOMINATION) MIL"; on either side the denomination.*

REVERSE: *Above in English, "MISHMAR HAMIFRATZ LTD. / FARE TICKET FOR (DENOMINATION) MILS"; below the serial number, No. 000000.*

6th ANNUAL ISRAEL STUDY TOUR SET FOR MARCH 5th

The Sixth Annual Study Tour of Israel has been set for departure on March 5th and return on March 19, 1974, announces the Board of Directors of AINA. The trip for the first time offers the opportunity for a Rome-London extension if fifteen AINA members indicate their interest in such a tour continuation.

A number of new places to visit and hotels have been arranged so that past participants will be as thrilled as the "first time" participants, advises Morris Bram. A weekend in Caesarea, for example, will permit a golf tournament, a new area of activity for AINA guests.

Arrangements have been formalized

for joint dinner meetings and evenings with the leading Israel numismatic groups. The tour starts in Haifa, visits the Galilee and the Lebanese border, and concludes in the Jerusalem area with visits to both Massada and Jericho. There are times for optional visits to Eilat or the Sinai as well.

The cost is \$995.00 and a deposit of \$100.00 per person should be sent now, suggests Mr. Bram, since a 2-bus group only will be accommodated. This is the first time that the tour has been limited to under 100 people. If you are thinking of going, send off the deposit check to AINA, P. O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, N. Y., N. Y. 10008.

"משמר המפרץ"

— (קבוצת זיפויף) בע"מ —

Mils

1

מיל

1

כרטיס נסיעה
עבור אחד מיל

1

Mishmar Hamifratz Ltd.

Fare-Ticket for one mils.

N° 000000

"משמר המפרץ"

— (קבוצת זיפויף) בע"מ —

Mils

2

מיל

2

כרטיס נסיעה
עבור שני מיל

2

Mishmar Hamifratz Ltd.

Fare-Ticket for two mils.

N° 000000

"משמר המפרץ"

— (קבוצת זיפויף) בע"מ —

Mils

5

מיל

5

כרטיס נסיעה
עבור חמש מיל

5

Mishmar Hamifratz Ltd.

Fare-Ticket for five mils.

N° 000000

Small change tokens of the Mishmar Hamifratz Ltd. Transportation Co. of 1942.

A BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

by Dr. Alan Feinberg

This bibliography has been prepared by Dr. Alan Feinberg, First Vice-President of the INS of Illinois and a long-time collector of Israel and Jewish numismatics. We are indebted to the INSI Bulletin which first published this extensive recommended library for the advanced collector.



Golda Meir learns about Jewish numismatics from recent literature reflecting the increase in world interest in Jewish numismatics.



The library of the Kadman Numismatic Museum in Tel-Aviv has one of the world's great collections of books on Jewish numismatics. The collector of today can still find many works in print and a growing number of reprints are being offered.

Part I. Ancient Jewish Coins

A. Historically Important Books—outdated but informative.

1. Cumberland, Richard: *An Essay towards the Recovery of the Jewish Measures and Weights, comprehending their Monies; by Help of Ancient Standards, compared with Ours of England, Useful also to State Many of Those of the Greeks and Romans, and the Eastern Nations*, London, 1686, 156pp., 1pl. A valuable early book.
2. Levy, Dr. M.A.: *Geschichte der Jüdischen Münzen*, Leipzig, 1862, 163 pp., ill. In German.
3. Madden, Frederic W.: *History of Jewish Coinage and of Money in the Old and New Testament*, London, 1864, reprint 1967, 373pp.
4. Madden, Frederic W.: *Coins of the Jews*, Rev. ed., London, 1903, reprint 1968, 339pp., ill.
5. Rafaeli, S.: *Matbeoth Hajehudim*, Jerusalem, 1913. In Hebrew.
6. Reinach, Theodore: *Jewish Coins* trans. by Mary Hill), London, 1903, reprint 1966, 106pp., 12pls.
7. DeSaulcy, F.: *Recherches sur la Numismatique Judaïque*, Paris, 1854, 192pp., 20pls. In French.
8. DeSaulcy, Louis Félicien: *Numismatique de la Terre Sainte*, Paris, 1874, 406pp., 25pls. In French.

B. General Books, specifically on Jewish and related coinage.

9. Reifenberg, A.: *Ancient Jewish Coins*, Fourth Edition, Jerusalem, 1965, 66 pp., 16pls. Superseded by Meshorer, but still necessary as Reifenberg numbers still frequently used in auction catalogs, etc.
10. Meshorer, Ya'akov: *Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period* (trans. by I. H. Levine), Tel-Aviv, 1967, 184 pp., 32pls. Essential—history and catalog—includes coins of Roman procurators of Judea and Judaea Capta coins minted at Caesarea. Would be even more useful if cross-referenced with Reifenberg numbers.
11. Hill, George Francis: *Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Palestine (Galilee, Samaria, Judea)*, London: British Museum, 1914, reprint 1965, 477pp., 42 pls., map. Very complete catalog, necessary for collectors, but somewhat outdated.

OF JEWISH NUMISMATICS

12. Kindler, Arie et al: *Coins and Currency (in Encyclopaedia Judaica)*, Jerusalem, 1972, 40pp., ill. Covers ancient to modern coins, incl. concentration camp and ghetto coins and currency.
 13. Superior Stamp and Coin Company: *Ancient Judaeon and Biblical Coins—Also includes: Judaeon Reference Coins, Related Greek and Roman Coinage, Ancient Artefacts, Topical Reference Books*, Los Angeles, 1971. A fixed price catalog. Reflects current prices. Enlarged coin on title page is a "False Shekel" but not identified as such.
 14. Hess-Leu Auction Catalog: *Jewish Coins—Jewish War, Judea Capta, Bar Kochba War*, Lucerne, April 3, 1963. 109 lots, 103 illustrated.
 15. Kindler, Arie: *Thesaurus of Judaeon Coins from the Fourth Century B.C. to the Third Century A.D.*, Jerusalem, 1958, 46pls. In Hebrew with 15pp. English summary.
 16. Reifenberg, A.: *Israel's History in Coins from the Maccabees to the Roman Conquest*, London, 1953, 46 pp. Nice photographs of coins.
- C. *Books on Specific Jewish Coinage.*
17. A—Kadman, Leo: *The Coins of Aelia Capitolina*, Jerusalem, 1956, 191pp., 17pls.
B—Kadman, Leo: *The Coins of Caesarea Maritima*, Jerusalem, 1957, 243pp., 19pls.
C—Kadman, Leo: *The Coins of the Jewish War of 66-73*, Jerusalem, 1960, 203pp., 5pls., 2 maps.
D—Kadman, Leo: *The Coins of Akko Ptolemais*, Tel-Aviv, 1961, 240pp., 20pls., map.
First four volumes of "Corpus Nummorum Palaestinensium" of the Israel Numismatic Society. The best available for these areas.
 18. Kindler, Arie: *The Coins of Tiberias*, Tiberias, 1961, 24pp., 41pls., map.
 19. Muehsam, Alice: *Coin and Temple, A Study of the Architectural Representation on Ancient Jewish Coins*, Leeds, 1966, 70pp., 11pls.
A Study of the Temple Shekels of the Second Revolt.
 20. Kindler, A. (Ed): *The Patterns of Monetary Development and Phoenicia and Palestine in Antiquity*, Proceedings of the International Numismatic Convention, Jerusalem, Dec. 1963, Tel-Aviv, 1967, 326pp., 22pls., Addresses given at the convention.
- D. *General Books containing Sections on Jewish or Related Coinage.*
21. Mattingly, Harold: *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum, Vol. II, Vespasian to Domitian*, London, 1930, reprint 1966, 590pp., 83 pls.
Probable best catalogue for Judea Capta.
 22. Head, Barclay V.: *Historia Numorum—A Manual of Greek Numismatics*, London, 1911, reprint 1967, 1058pp., ill. A combination catalog and history of Greek coinage, incl. Judea and surrounding areas. Not as many illustrations as one would like.
 23. Seaby, H. A.: *Greek Coins and Their Values*, 2nd edition, London, 1966, 218pp., ill., 8pls. Best priced catalog of Greek coins, soon to be updated, not complete.
 24. Sear, David R.: *Roman Coins and Their Values*, Rev. ed., 1970, London, 1970, 376pp., 12pl. Best priced catalog of Roman coins, not complete.
 25. Sydenham, Edward A.: *Historical References on Coins of the Roman Roman Empire from Augustus to Gallienus*, London, 1917, reprint 1968, 155pp., ill. Relates the coins to history—only a small part Jewish-related.
- E. *Jewish Coins related to the Bible.*
26. Akerman, John Yonge: *Numismatic Illustrations of the Narrative Portions of the New Testament*, London, 1846, reprint 1966, 62pp., ill.
 27. Banks, Florence Aiken: *Coins of Bible Days*, New York, 1955, 191pp., ill. Interesting reading; a number of the illustrated coins are counterfeit and some of these pictures have been lifted and put in other books, perpetuating the original error.
 28. Jacob, Kenneth A.: *Coins and Christianity*, London, 1959, 41pp., 4pls.

29. Rogers, Rev. E.: *A Handy Guide to Jewish Coins*, London, 1914, 116pp., 9pls. Interesting reading—some out-of-date attributions.
30. Tuckwood, Charles E.: *Ancient Coins associated with Christianity*, in *Selections from The Numismatist, Ancient and Medieval Coins*, Racine, 1960, pp.210-220.
31. Yeoman, R. S.: *Moneys of the Bible*, Racine, 1961, 61pp., ill. Scriptural references.

F. Journals.

32. Israel Numismatic Bulletins, Nos. 1-5, 1962-3. Journal of the Israel Numismatic Society, Tel-Aviv. Contains many important articles.
33. Journal of Israel Numismatics, Feb. 1966 (Vol. I, No. 1) to April 1969 (Vol. II, No. 2).
34. The Shekel, 1968—. Journal of the American Israel Numismatic Association, N.Y.

G. Symbols.

35. Wirgin, Wolf and Mandel, Siegfried: *The History of Coins and Symbols in Ancient Israel*, New York, 1958, 264pp., ill., 32pls. Controversial book—authors have own ideas on dating, considering the shekel of the first revolt as a coin of Simon Maccabee.
36. Israel Numismatic Society: *The Dating and Meaning of Ancient Jewish Coins and Symbols: Six Essays in Jewish Numismatics*, Jerusalem, 1958, 116pp., 1pl. Answer to Wirgin and Mandel's book.
37. Romanoff, Paul: *Jewish Symbols on Ancient Jewish Coins*, Philadelphia, 1944, 79pp., 7pls., reprint, 1971.
38. Goodenough, Erwin R.: *Jewish Symbols in the Greco-Roman Period*, 13 vol., New York, 1953 to 1969. Especially interesting—vol. 4—The Problem of Method-Symbols from Jewish Cult, and Vol. 12—Summary and Conclusions.
39. Reifenberg, A.: *Ancient Hebrew Arts*, New York, 1950, 171pp., ill., map. Shows coins, seals and other Judaica.

Part II. Modern Coins and Currency on Palestine and Israel

40. Kadman, Leo: *Israel's Money*, Tel-Aviv, 1963, 99pp., ill., 8pls. Includes coins, medals and bank notes of Israel with coins and bank notes of the British Mandatory Government of Palestine. Superseded by Haffner and Bertram and Weber for the most part.

41. Pridmore, F.: *The Coins of the British Commonwealth of Nations to the End of the Reign of George VI*, 1952. Part 2. *Asian Territories*, London, 1962, 337pp., ill. 9 pages on Palestine; good source for history of the coinage and details of coins.
42. Remick, Jerome, et al.: *The Guide Book and Catalogue of British Commonwealth Coins, 1649-1971*, Third edition, Winnipeg, 1971, 568pp., ill. Listing under Palestine and Israel—mintages and prices in seven grades of condition.
43. Bertram, Fred and Weber, Robert: *Israel's 20-Year Catalog of Coins and Currency, including Palestine Mandate and State Medals*, New York, 1968, 128pp. Coins, medals and bank notes of Israel and Palestine. A very nice book, but not as complete as Haffner.
44. Haffner, Sylvia: *The History of Modern Israel's Money, 1917-1970*, 2nd edition, Tarzana, Calif., 1970. Most complete—includes State medals, presentation medals; Palestine Mandate, Turkish and Egyptian currency used in Palestine; tokens, errors.
45. Trowbridge, Richard J.: *Coinage of the Palestine Mandate*, Long Beach, 1969, 14pp., ill. Interesting bits of information. Priced catalog in four grades of condition.
46. Dietzel, Heinz: *Die Münzen von Palästina und Israel Ab 1927*, Berlin, 1971, 25pp., ill. Priced catalog, including some medals and bank notes.
47. Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation: *Catalogue*, Jerusalem, 1969, 40pp., ill. Interesting and inexpensive catalog of the coins and medals and accessories issued by the IGCNC.

Part III. Jewish Tokens and Medals

48. Friedenbergs, Daniel M., ed.: *Great Jewish Portraits in Metal (Selected Plaques and Medals from the Samuel Friedenbergs Collection of the Jewish Museum)*, New York, 1963, 143pp., ill. Valuable, but only some are collectable as many are commissioned with only a few made.
49. Friedenbergs, Daniel M.: *Jewish Medals from the Renaissance to the Fall of Napoleon (1503-1815)*, New York 1970, 152pp., ill. Probably the most important book on older medals.
50. Polak, Arthur: *Jewish Medals in the Netherlands*, Amsterdam, 1958, 80 pp., 17pls. In Dutch with English summaries.

51. Kirch, Bruno: *Shekel Medals and False Shekels*, New York, 1941, 39 pp., 11pls. Reprinted from *Historia Judaica*, Vol. III, No. 2. Best work on subject.
52. Lapa, Frank: *Jewish Shekel Tokens*, Beverly Hills, 1972, 7pp., 8pls. The only readily available book on subject, not as complete as #51.
53. Kirschner, Bruno: *Deutsche Spott-medallien auf Juden*, Munich, 1968, 92pp., ill. In German. German anti-Semitic medals—some errors but the only book of its kind.
54. Gould, Jean and Maurice: *The Story of Israel in Coins*, No. Hollywood, Calif., 1971, 137pp., ill. Mostly on medals, recent official and nonofficial. See also—#37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 47.

Part IV. Miscellaneous

55. Director of Public Relations: *Insignia of the Israel Defence Forces*, Israel, n.d., 72 pp., ill. Enables one to identify insignia.
56. Schrire, T.: *Hebrew Amulets, Their Decipherment and Interpretation*, London, 1966, 192pp., 12pls. Amulets to protect the wearer against the effects of evil and the Evil Eye.
57. Joods Historisch Museum: *Judaica Uit Een Particuliere Versameling*, Amsterdam, 1964. Exhibition of Judaica, including coins and medals.

Part V. Bibliographies

A. Specific Jewish Bibliography.

58. Mayer, L. A.: *A Bibliography of Jewish Numismatics*, Jerusalem, 1966, 78pp. 822 references—essential for research.
59. *Israel Bibliography in World Coins*, Sidney, Ohio, Vol. 9, pp. 984-990, July 4, 1972. Includes articles.

B. General Bibliographies.

60. Clain-Stefanelli, Elvira Eliza: *Select Numismatic Bibliography*, New York, 1965, 406pp. 4962 references.
61. Grierson, Philip: *Bibliographie Numismatique*, Bruxelles, 1966, 235pp.
62. Katen, Frank J. and Katen, Laurese Byrd: *Numismatic Book List*, 11th edition, Coin World, Sidney, Ohio, Vol. 14, Issue 676, p. 41, March 28, 1973. First of several parts—section on biblical and Jewish coins printed in U.S.
63. American Numismatic Association: *Numismatic Literature*, New York. Semiannual survey of current numismatic publications with abstracts. Last issue, Number 89, March 1973.

AN OTTOMAN LEAD SEAL

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa

Collectors of Israeli-related numismatics collect many coin-like items—for example, seals. One category of seals are the lead seals used to secure mail bags.



The seal illustrated bears on the obverse the inscription:

Posta
Devlet-i
Aliye-i
Osmaniye

Post
of the
Ottoman
Empire

The reverse reads: *Halilul Rahman*. *Halilul Rahman* is the Turkish name of Hebron. The seal has a diameter of about 22½mm, a thickness of about 6mm and weighs 20.07 g. The seal was found somewhere near Gaza together in a lot of Islamic coins. It may have been used for a mail bag from Hebron to Gaza.

There is no possibility to date the seal, but the neat lettering may indicate the beginning of this century. The Hebron post office was opened in the 1860s. Such lead seals were, of course, used by all *Ottoman Post Offices* and it is likely that others pertaining to Israel may be found.

ARTICLES WELCOMED

The Editors of *The Shekel* welcome you to the pages of the world's leading regularly published journal on past and current numismatics relating to Israel, Judaica and other topical matters of interest especially to the members of the *American Israel Numismatic Association*. Please submit manuscripts typed; photos are returned on request.

THE ENIGMA OF THE MEDAL



OF RABBI ELAZAR ROKACH

By Eli Semmelman, Haifa

Though minted about 250 years ago, this is a common medal, so very popular that most Judaica collectors possess a piece. I don't understand why rumors abound saying all pieces on sale are imitations. Comparing these and my own with medals in the Bezalel Museum, the Jewish Museum in New York, the Jewish Museum in Berlin and in the collection of Dr. Pollock in Amsterdam, they look the same. But there is a great difference between the medals in these museums and the medal in the Dr. Feuchtwanger collection in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. This medal was struck on another medal or coin with traces of Latin letters evident on it. There is also a different one in the collection of the Museum of Heshel Gornitzky in Haifa, and I have located a uniface piece which is no doubt an imitation; compare pictures. Rabbi Elazar Ben Schmu'el Schmelkeh Rokach was born in Krakow, Poland. He became well known for his talmudic knowledge and as a preacher. In 1708 he was appointed Rabbi in Krakow and in 1714 he was appointed Rabbi in Brod, Galicia. From there, at age 70, he was called to Amsterdam to

take the rabbinical seat of the Ashkenazy community. He started rabbinical service there in the 14th of September 1735 (27 Elul 5475).

In this community, for many years, the seat of the Rabbi had been vacant. To celebrate the arrival of Rabbi Elazar Rokach, there was a great reception, larger than ever before given to a Rabbi taking office in Amsterdam, said an eye witness Menachem man, Ben Salomon Halevy. For this special occasion, this medal was struck.

Obverse of the Medal: Effigy of the Rabbi, holding a Holy Book, inscribed: "Our teacher Rabbi Elazar son of our teacher Rabbi Shmeul, Chairman of the Jewish Court in the Holy Community of Brod"; at his right hand, under his sleeve, are 16 rings or O's. *Reverse of Medal:* Hebrew text: "Received here on Wednesday 27 Elul 495 to long life Amen Selah." The proverb from the Mishnah Avoth 3, 2. "Pray for the wealth of the kingdom."

From Psalm 119, 10 different verses, the first of each verse is for one of the Parnassim who voted for

Rabbi Rockach and the first word of his name is parallel to the verse in Psalm 119. They are verse 145, 80, 57, 7, 55, 134, 77, 105 and 81. And a verse from Kings 17.2. Last row: the minters name in head letters: *Joel Ben Lipman Levy*.

The verse of Rabbi Chanina mentioned above, from Mishna Avot, *"Pray for the wealth of the kingdom"* is for thanks to the Governors of Amsterdam, because their interference made possible the election of Rabbi Rockach. The community leaders could not agree which candidate to elect, the governors suggested that the list of candidates be condensed. By doing this, the name of Rabbi Rockach topped the list. There were 11 parnassim who favored the Rabbi of Brod. The first letter of each of the 11 parnassim appear on the medal continued with a verse from Psalm 119, as follows: first row *Kaf* for Kopel, verse 145; *"I cried with my whole heart, hear me oh Lord, I will keep your statute."* Row 2 *yod* for Parnass Yochem Moses, verse 80; *"Let my heart be sound in thy statutes, that I be not ashamed."* Third row, *Cheth* for Parnass Chone Elkan, verse 57; *"Thou art my portion O Lord I have said that I would keep my words."* 4th row *Alef* for Parnass Itzik (Isaac) Alexander) verse 7; *"I will praise thee with uprightness of heart when I shall have learned thy righteous judgment."* 5th row *Zain* for Parnass Zacharias Reithlinger, verse 55; *"I have remembered thy name oh Lord, and kept thy law."* 6th row *Pey* for Parnass Philip Levy (Leon) Gomperts, verse 134, *"Deliver me from the oppression of man, so will I keep thy precepts."* 7th row *Yod* for Jacob Jacob Fles Junior, verse 77; *"Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live, for thy law is my delight."* 8th row *Nun* for Parnass Nathan Magnus, verse 105; *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."* 9th row, *Alef* for Andreas Van Orden, verse 8; *"I will keep thy statutes; o forsake me not utterly."* 10th row *Kof* for The Maid Klara, verse 81; *"My soul faiteth for my salvation*



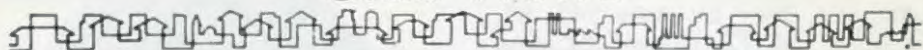
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but I hope in thy word." And a verse from Kings 1, part 17, verse 22; *"And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah and the soul of the child came into him again and he revives."* This verse was for Parnass Elias De Lima (also called Elias Norden). In the next row the words: They are the head words of the minter or casters name: *Joel Ben Lipman Levy*. Last row is written: *Here Amsterdam*.

Not only the friends of the Rabbi were immortalized on this medal but also his opponents though we do not know their names, but in 1735 all Amsterdam laughed at them. Under the right sleeve of the Rabbi are 3 rows of little rings, first row 8 rings, second row 6 rings, third row 2 rings, together 16 o's who voted against Rabbi Elazar's election, it appears that the Rabbi is shaking them away with his sleeve.

There is still much to learn about this medal but I hope I helped Judaica collectors to appreciate this medal and its background. The enigma of this medal was solved, in material written by a Dr. Stern in the catalog of the Jewish Museum in Berlin. The museum was plundered and destroyed by the Nazis. If not for Dr. Stern, who knows if we ever could read and understand this wonderful medal of this unusual and historic event. The medal is of silver; diameter 46mm. The imitation is a bit larger, as is the medal in Heshel Golnitzky's Museum. I have heard there are also pieces in bronze.

Club News



Aldor speaks at C.O.I.N.



WEST COASTERS HEAR ISRAELI EXECS AT AINA EVENT AT C.O.I.N. CONVENTION

Over 200 West Coast numismatists were guests of the Israel Coin Clubs of Southern California and the IGCAM at a special program conducted at the COIN Convention at the Los Angeles Hilton in mid-June to commemorate Israel's 25th Anniversary.

With MC Maurice M. Gould, president of the Israel Coin Club of L.A. as chairman, the audience heard addresses from the Hon. Yakov Aviad, Consul-General of Israel in L.A., from the Hon. Rafael Aldor, Consul of Israel in NY and North American Director of the IGCAM, and from Eva Adams, former U.S. Mint Director.

Sponsoring groups were the *Israel Coin Club of L.A.*; the *INS of San Gabriel Valley*; and the *Israel Coin Club of San Fernando Valley*.

The *Organizing Committee* was chaired by Val Morgensen with Leonard Sterling directing publicity. Com-

mittee members were Milton Fishgold, Sally Marx, Nathan Bromberg, Jerry Yahalom and Armando Ojeda.

ALDOR REPORTS GROWTH OF ISRAEL COLLECTORS

In a talk at the recent *COIN Convention* in Los Angeles, Rafael Aldor, Director for North America for the IGCAM gave some indication of the growth of collecting of Israel's numismatics.

Approximately three years ago, said Aldor, subscribers to Israel's coins were located in four countries: Germany, Italy, Japan and the U.S.

Within the past year alone, the U.S. interest has jumped from an approximate 9,000 active subscribers to 20,000. Despite this growth in the U.S. interest, U.S. collectors who had been collectors of Israel's coinage today are only one-third of the world total. Israel is a second third; and the final third is in Europe.

BALTIMORE GROUP MEETS WITH STAMP COLLECTORS

The INS of Maryland held a joint meeting with the Israel Philatelic Club in May.

A special June meeting to honor Israel's 25th Anniversary included the showing of a film, presentation of door prizes, exhibits by INS members and the serving of refreshments.

Earlier meetings of the 1973 year included a special March meeting on medals and an April meeting addressed by the president of the INS of Washington, D.C., Adolf Bondy who spoke on Israeli currency.

PALESTINE MANDATE COIN FEATURED AT SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER OF L. A.

Dick Trowbridge, a coin dealer specializing in coins of the British World prepared a special sound and slide show on Palestine Mandate Coinage which was premiered at the September meeting of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles, reported *The Scroll*, monthly newsletter of the West Coast group.

The LA group was pleased to note that Maurice M. Gould, club president, was elected a member of the AINA Board of Directors and a Vice-President of AINA nationally.

The June issue of *The Scroll* carried an article on *The Palestine Mandate Coin*, written by club member Gilbert Ross. The set of fifty-nine coins, some of the history packed into their years, are told in some poignant detail by the writer who tells how he began to assemble his own collection.

A May meeting of the group heard William Braithwaite speak on *Coins of the Bible*.

MONTREAL INS FORMED TO SERVE MONTREAL AND QUEBEC NUMISMATISTS

Collectors of Israel's numismatics living in eastern Canada are invited to join the Israel Numismatic Society of Montreal which includes residents of the cities of Montreal and Quebec.

The new INS, formed late in 1972, will welcome inquiries to its Secretary-Treasurer Isidore Baum at (514) 739-9416.

IN MEMORIAM

Early in 1973, the club's members and the entire Canadian numismatic fraternity were shocked at the untimely passing of Louis Goldsmith, first president of the newly formed INS group. Mr. Goldsmith had a rare coin shop which he operated together with his wife. Mr. Goldsmith had long been associated with Canadian and Montreal numismatic organizations.

CENTRAL N. J. GROUP HOLDS INAUGURAL MEET

America's newest INS, the *INS of Central Jersey* was inaugurated during the Spring in a ceremony which included numerous local officials and addressed by Rafael Aldor, Director for North America for the IGCAM, *the final club inauguration during the period of Mr. Aldor's consulship in America.*

The following club officers have been elected:

President: Davis Paszaman
Vice-President: Paul Drucker
Treasurer: Allan Greenberg
Recording Sec'y.: Anne Greenberg
Corres. Sec'y.: Jackie Perla
Membership Chairman: Jeff Weiss
Programs: Carl Rosenblum
Auctions: Darryl Yoblick
Medal Committee: Ave Lerner and Joseph Japka

In the months since the group was launched, over 80 members have joined to participate in meetings held in Highland Park, N.J.

VIRGINIA GROUP HOLDS SUMMER MEETING

One of the few INS groups to hold summertime meetings is the *INS of Tidewater Virginia* (the area of Norfolk-Portsmouth). The August meeting served to bring members of the group up to date on recent trends in coin prices and values, reported *The INSformer*, monthly bulletin of the group.

Earlier meetings heard reports from participants in the *AINA Convention* in New York City; reports on the growing nationwide interest in revision of laws pertaining to gold ownership; and of such unusual activities of the group as its presentation at the *Peninsula Coin Club* of the story of Israel's numismatics.

Paper money of Israel was the subject of a recent meeting addressed jointly by Morton Ronick and Milton Becker.

The rapidly growing Virginia group now has over 60 members, reports president Harold Ronick. Officers since the launching of the Society include President Morton Ronick; Vice-President Milton Becker; Secretary Henry Ullman; and Treasurer A. I. Axelrod.

The INS of Tidewater prides itself on being the first INS group to take action to change the gold legislation of the U. S. so that members may someday legally purchase the gold coins of the *Bank of Israel*, for example.

TEXANS HEAR ALDOR AT JUNE MEETING

News of the first AINA Convention in New York City reached Texas via one of the leaders of Israel's numismatics in the U. S. when Rafael Aldor, North American Director for the ICGAM, addressed the June meeting of the INS of Texas, gathered in Houston.

The event marked the first visit of the popular Israeli executive to the Texas group. A short PNC meeting preceded the Aldor address. Members of the INS were encouraged to bring guests to the meeting to head Aldor and to discuss Israeli numismatics, advises Harold Z. Nelkin, president.

Officers of the group for 1972 included Harold Z. Nelkin, President; Herb Oberman, Vice-President; Criss Jasso, Secretary; and Al Selsky, Treasurer.

INS OF WASH., D. C., HEARS BANK OF ISRAEL EXECUTIVE

The INS in the Nation's Capitol is headed by a dedicated group of numismatists who posed for their official portrait one year ago.



From left to right: Sam Grosfeld, Treasurer; Joe Bless, Corr. Secretary; Mr. Taub, guest speaker from *Bank of Israel*; Adolf Bondy, President; Moe Cohen, Director; Hershel Katz, Rec. Secretary; and Lou Goldberg, Director.

At the meeting at which this photo was taken, the guest speaker was Mr. Yithak Julius Taub who spoke on the subject of the banknotes of Israel from 1948 to the present.

The big social event of 1973 has been the steak dinner at Michel's in nearby Bethesda, Md., to honor Israel's 25th Anniversary. One of the events of the Spring was a meeting which heard an address by Nelson Whitman who spoke on the British Palestine Mandate coinage. A number of society members assisted in the presentation by bringing in choice examples from personal collections.

BUNSHAFT, MARX SPEAK AT SAN FERNANDO MEETINGS

Summer meetings of the Israel Coin Club of San Fernando Valley, California heard speakers Max Bunshaft

and Sally Marx tell of Israel-related numismatic interest, reports the Editor of the *Ancient Scroll*, monthly newsletter of the group.

The July meeting heard Sally Marx tell of her own interest in collecting Israel's coins, currency, kibbutz money . . . and stamps.

The group was proud to be one of the local Israel Coin Clubs to co-sponsor the successful 25th Anniversary Celebration at the June *COIN Convention*.

ILLINOIS GROUP CELEBRATES FIFTIETH MEETING

The Fiftieth Meeting of the INS of Illinois was celebrated in July with a membership bourse, a new event in the history of the group, reports the editor of the *INS Bulletin*.

The June meeting of the INS announced the election of Mr. Maurice Spertus as an Honorary Member. Mr. Spertus is a sponsor of such institutions as the *Spertus College of Judaica* and the *Spertus Museum of Judaica* (which has a historical and valuable Judaic medal collection.)

Exhibitors at the June meeting included Robert Leonard who spoke on three books inherited from a grandfather, including an early *Josephus Flavius*; Dave Schecter who displayed silver coins of Christian IV, former King of Denmark; and Harry Flower who showed medals including one of the Rothschilds. Junior Member Jeffrey Lillien displayed *Coins of the Inquisitors*, coins of European rulers allowing or advocating the medieval expulsion of Jews from Spain, Portugal and other countries.

NEW JERSEY INS PRINTS NOVA CAESAREA

Nova Caesarea is the news bulletin monthly of the INS of New Jersey which differs from all INS bulletins nationally in that it is not only a printed bulletin; it is the only one which lists ALL meeting dates for the year.

With news notes of numismatic developments of interest to INS members of New Jersey, *Nova Caesarea* also produces numismatic educational articles by society members.

From the May 1973 issue, the following proposed 1973-74 slate has been formed:

President: Howard Finke
1st Vice-President: Sid Moskowitz
2nd Vice-President: Max Becker
Treasurer: Walter D. Moore Jr.
Corres. Sec'y.: Laura Roenblum
Recording Sec'y.: Margaret E. Moore
Sgt. at Arms: Zoltan Hush
Board of Trustees: Milton Gottlieb, Dr. Harold Grubin, Murray Mackler, Martin Rubin, Robert Schonwaller, Fred Schwartzstein; Ex Officio—Carl Rosenblum

Recent meetings heard reports on coin insurance, home safes and home alarm systems by experts in these fields.

INSTANT PROVIDES NEWS OF INS AND RELATED NUMISMATISTS TO TORONTO MEMBERS

While a number of INS clubs in the U. S. have excellent monthly newsletters, one of the leading newsletters for Israeli numismatic collectors is that of the Israel Numismatic Society of Toronto, edited by Bob Aaron with the assistance of Peter Brull and Jim Fuller, *The INSTant*.

In addition to news of forthcoming and past meetings, news notes and reprints of significant materials of interest to the members, *The INSTant* carries first-person articles by contributors such as recent visitors to the first AINA Convention in New York; editorials; and market and price information.

The INS of Toronto has the third largest membership of any INS in North America. Visitors to Canada will be welcomed at INST meetings. For details, write to Box 395, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada. INST became a member of AINA during 1973.

The Fall election of officers will be reported on in the next issue of *The Shekel*.

SPRING MEETING IN N. Y. C. HEARS OF FIRST REVOLT SHEKELS

Shekels of the First Revolt was the theme of the meeting which ended the Spring season for the INS of New York, with Herb Kreindler speaking and showing shekels which had only days earlier been on display at the *Greater New York Coin Convention*, reported Mort Zerder on behalf of Harry Schacher, president.

Many members of the INS of New York were exceptionally busy as hosts and back-scene workers for the tremendous July convention of AINA which had a turnout approaching 6000.

HAYM SOLOMON EARLY U. S. PATRIOT HONORED AT BROOKLYN INS MEETING

Haym Solomon, a Jewish-American patriot of the American Revolution has recently been honored by a medal issued by the *Judah L. Magnes Museum*. The story of Haym Solomon, and the details on the unique medal struck in his honor was the subject of the June meeting of the *INS of Brooklyn*. The lecture was given by well-known numismatic expert, Mel Wacks, a member of the *AINA Board of Directors* and a frequent contributor to *The Shekel*.

The May meeting, like many other INS meetings, was dedicated to honoring Israel's 25th Anniversary. But the INS of Brooklyn, now with a membership of about 130 and claiming to be the single largest INS in North America is the only INS to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the *Brooklyn Bridge*. The May meeting featured singing, an audio-visual presentation, and a number of exhibits by members.

Nat Sobel, reports the *INSB Newsletter*, has been named as *Numismatic Consultant* to the *Diamond Jubilee of the City of New York*. Mr. Sobel is the president of the *INSB*.

An *INSB Medal* has been struck. (Medal collectors of the *INSB* may send \$5.00 to Dave Greenberg, 500B

Grand Street, N.Y., N.Y. 1002. The medals will be presented to speakers and contributors to the *INSB*.)

The *INSB* set a record with the first chartered bus tour by an *INS*. The group of forty *INSB* members visited Philadelphia and the Franklin iMnt in mid-February in below-freezing weather.

AINA SHOW PRIZE WINNING EXHIBIT FEATURED AT CLEVELAND MEETING

The prize-winning exhibit of *Israel Errors and Varieties* by Stanley Yulish (Category: *Coinage of the State of Israel*) was featured at the June meeting of the *INS of Cleveland*. Stanley Yulish, whose exhibition won the prize, gave a slide-lecture presentation of the unique exhibit.

The summer activities planned included a joint picnic with the Society of Israel Philatelists with games, prizes and picnic foods planned for a mid-July Sunday.

The Fall slate of officers has been announced with Sanford Brown nominated for President; Ray Nolan, Secretary; Jack Davidson, Vice-President; and Ed Murphy, Treasurer.

Israel's Walking and Sporting Medals was the theme of the May meeting of the *INS of Cleveland*, reports Ed Murphy and Ray Nolan, co-editors of *The Agora*, monthly newsletter of the group. Speaker Milton Shapiro showed examples of the medals which do not get the interest and publicity of many other Israeli numismatic items. He has been collecting data on the subject for the past 5 to 6 years.

An earlier meeting heard Dick Wengel speak on the theme of *Pomegranates* as a symbol appearing not only on Judaic coins but on religious vestments as well.

Earlier in the year the group participated in community-wide celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the *State of Israel*.

BRIGHT AND SPARKLING 'OLIVE BRANCH' REPORTS ON CALIF. NEWS

The Olive Branch is the monthly newsletter of the *INS of San Gabriel Valley of California*, edited by Esther Bromberg. Announcements of forthcoming membership meetings, the President's Message, and a variety of newsy facts make this a unique newsletter serving the interests of the INS members.

With liberal dosages of ancient history of the Jews such as the chart of the *Highlights of Judaea during the Second Commonwealth (538BCE-135 CE)* and even such unexpected items as the weather forecast for Jerusalem-Haifa Tel Aviv throughout the year, *The Olive Branch* reports on a variety of Israel-related numismatic news items, news of personalities, club member family news, etc.

The July issue pointed out that INS members were awarded personally engraved silver COIN medals for their work at the *COIN Convention*: Ralph Marx, Nate Bromberg, Ben Abelson and Esther Bromberg.

Officers of the group for the April 1973 to April 1974 year are:

President: Sally Marx
Vice-President: Esther Taller
Treasurer: Nate Bromberg
Recording Sec'y.: Donna Sims
Corres. Sec'y.: Esther Bromberg
Historian: Esther Bromberg
ANA Rep.: Alva Christensen
NASC Rep.: Ralph Marx
COIN Rep.: Esther Bromberg
AINA Rep.: Nate Bromberg
Board of Governors: Alva Christensen,
Ethel Stone, George Allison, Lee
King, Ralph Marx and Lester Dubin.

INS OF MASS. SETS NEW AINA "FIRST"

The only chartered bus trip by an INS group to the *AINA Convention* was that of the *INS of Massachusetts* which chartered a bus for the 3½-hour trip to New York in early May. Trip attendees were Irving and Claire Rudin; Nat and Lottie Tucker; Jacob

and Etta Michen; Phil and Bunny Shapiro; Marshall and Esther Schneider; Ed and Mrs. Kaplan; Bert and Richard Lipman, Max Fox and Ed Shade. The group is believed to be the largest single formal delegation to the AINA meet; delegate Richard Lipman, a recent Bar Mitzvah, was one of the youngest registered delegates.

The group reported to the June meeting of the society which was held to honor Israel's 25th Anniversary, reported Ed Shade, president of the group which meets at the *Jewish Historical Society Building* of Brandeis University.

NEW ALL-ISRAEL REFERENCE WORK ANNOUNCED

The Israel Numismatic Society, Jerusalem, Israel, has announced sponsorship of a major new Israel work for numismatists, bringing up to date all information of Israel's official issues: currency, state medals, coinage and mint sets from 1948 to the present. The new work will be published during 1973 initially in English with possible later editions in Hebrew and German.

The new compendium, untitled at this time, will be lavishly illustrated and will present verified data on Israel's notes and bills, commemorative coins, trade coins and official mint sets of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation and the Bank of Israel. Collectors of Israeli numismatic materials will find the volume a key reference for coinage identification along with such basic information as date of issue, quantities issued, original issue price, current world market prices and related data.

The new publication will be made available through the American Israel Numismatic Association and selected dealers. Details of price, size, binding and first available date on which orders will be accepted will be announced shortly.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont.)

tives of five states attended . . . and a few days later, the Aldors were once again with their countrymen and loved ones.

It was a time to also say "Hello" to another fine Israeli who will pick up the difficult tasks that Rafael Aldor had been carrying alone. Meet Nahum H. Hacohen, born on a kibbutz, educated in Israel and then sent to America for a number of major marketing roles. Mr. Hacohen is a specialist in Israel's industry, transportation and products. He was for a number of years a leading executive here with the ZIM Lines of Israel, particularly in regard to promotion of the passenger cruises. Later he was to be an adviser for promotion of Israel's coins in the U. S., little knowing then that he one day would be the Acting Manager in New York City for the ICGAM! A strange turn of events? Not at all. If you have been to Israel you know how versatile and flexible each Israeli has to be in a land short of people.

I did say all of this proved dynamic growth. The tangible evidence is that all clubs, of all sizes, now have MORE members than ever before, that there are MORE clubs than ever before . . . and now we welcome the newly forming *INS of Westchester*. Westchester is the northern suburb of New York City, with fine small cities like Scarsdale and Larchmont, a border on the Long Island Sound leading to the Atlantic Ocean and on the Hudson River if you move West. It is an upper income community . . . and we expect this highly educated community to make a real contribution to the growth of interest in Israel's numismatics. We'll report on this in greater detail in the next *Shekel*.

The newly elected Board had its second quarterly meeting in Boston, another "first" for AINA. It was the first Board meeting ever held outside New York City and was well-attended. The *INS. of Mass.* played host at a meeting conducted on the Sunday of the *ANA Convention* in August; and I am proud to report (somewhat

astonished myself!) that we had a Standing-Room-Only meeting for an afternoon AINA conclave. The highlight of the meeting was a brilliant presentation by Dr. Eli Grad, President of the Hebrew College, Brookline, who with slides and commentary gave a definitive understanding to Israel's banknotes and their historical contribution. *Thank you, Boston and Mass. AINA members for your warm hospitality.*

But we are already looking ahead to the next Board meeting. It will be in November at the *Grand Central Coin Convention*, in New York City at the Americana Hotel, November 8, 9, 10 and 11. The honored guest for the occasion will be Yitzhak Avni, Director-General of the *Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation*. We hope he will visit with some of the clubs in America during his stay so perhaps you will get to greet him yourself in your hometown. There will be an *AINA Workshop* on Sunday, Nov. 11 at the *Convention*; can you plan to be in New York that weekend to join us?

Shalom,

Morris Bram, President

PALESTINE NOTES (Cont.)

There appears to be sufficient 5 pounds notes in circulated condition bearing the 1929, 1939 and 1944 dates to enable interested collectors to obtain such notes, but the 1927 is, in my opinion, exceedingly rare. Uncirculated notes are difficult to obtain in any date and are usually purchased on a negotiation basis between purchaser and seller.

The author and many others are interested in verifying all known 1927 5 pounds notes held by collectors or dealers. Information concerning these plus information as to known redemptions, destruction by fire or other casualty of any 5 pounds note is also of great interest. It is requested that such information be transmitted to *Jack H. Fisher, Attorney at Law, 912 American National Bank Building, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006, U. S. A.*





Jews in a besieged city throw stones at attacking Romans, reveals this drawing from a relief on the triumphal column of Trajan (Roman Emperor from 98 to 117 CE). The coinage of the Herodian period and up to the period of the Jewish Wars is described in pages of the *Encyclopedia Judaica* reproduced elsewhere in this issue of *The Shekel*.